

I Claim:

- 1. A vessel stabilizing mechanism comprising at least two elongated members and at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for securing at least one member to at least one other member such that at least one said hinge device or adjustable interface would be positioned within or above the vessel when the stabilizing mechanism is in use.**
- 2. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 1 further comprising at least one of said at least two elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard.**
- 3. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 1 further comprising at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device.**
- 4. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 2 further comprising at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device.**
- 5. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 2 further comprising at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.**
- 6. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 3 further comprising at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.**
- 7. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 4 further comprising at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.**
- 8. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 2 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.**
- 9. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 3 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.**
- 10. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 4 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge**

device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

11. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 5 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

12. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 6 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

13. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 7 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

14. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 1 further comprising said at least one of said at least two elongated members having one more apertures or other support structures incorporated therein and distinct from said at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for use in securing such one or more elongated members to the vessel and said vessel stabilizing mechanism also having one or more of the following:

(a) at least one of said at least two elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,

(b) at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

15. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 1 further comprising said at least one hinge device or adjustable interface comprising one or more rounded, circular, oval, square, rectangular, triangular, pentangular, hexagonal, septangular, octagonal, crescent or semicircle shaped structure(s) affixed or affixable to or incorporated as part of one or more member(s) and having one or more aperture(s) therein such that one or more of said structure(s) of one member may be positioned next to one or more said structure(s) of one or more other member(s) and bolted, clipped or otherwise affixed together in a manner that secures or reversibly secures the relative position of the associated members and said vessel stabilizing mechanism also having one or more of the following:

- (a) at least one of said at least two elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,
- (b) at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,
- (c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or
- (d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

16. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 1 further comprising said at least one hinge device or adjustable interface comprising one or more rounded, circular, oval, square, rectangular, triangular, pentangular, hexagonal, septangular, octagonal, crescent or semicircle shaped structure(s) affixed or affixable to or incorporated as part of one or more member(s) and having one or more aperture(s) therein such that one or more of said structure(s) of one member may be positioned next to one or more said structure(s) of one or more other member(s) and bolted, clipped or otherwise affixed together in a manner that secures or reversibly secures the relative position of the associated

members and said vessel stabilizing mechanism also having two or more of the following:

- (a) at least one of said at least two elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,
- (b) at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,
- (c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or
- (d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

17. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 15 further comprising at least one of said at least two elongated members having one more apertures or other support structures incorporated therein and distinct from said at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for use in securing such elongated member(s) to the vessel.

18. A vessel stabilizing method comprising securing to a vessel at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having at least two elongated members and at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for securing at least one member to at least one other member such that at least one said hinge device or adjustable interface would be positioned within or above the vessel when the stabilizing mechanism is in use and then operating said vessel.

19. The vessel stabilizing method of Claim 18 further comprising said at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having one or more of the following:

- (a) at least one of said at least two elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,
- (b) at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

20. The vessel stabilizing method of Claim 18 further comprising said at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having two or more of the following:

(a) at least one of said at least two elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,

(b) at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

21. A method of moving a vessel comprising securing to a vessel one or more masts, one or more sails and at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having at least two elongated members and at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for securing at least one member to at least one other member such that at least one said hinge device or adjustable interface would be positioned within or above the vessel when the stabilizing mechanism is in use and then operating said vessel.

22. The vessel stabilizing method of Claim 21 further comprising said at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having one or more of the following:

(a) at least one of said at least two elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,

(b) at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

23. The vessel stabilizing method of Claim 21 further comprising said at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having two or more of the following:

(a) at least one of said at least two elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,

(b) at least one of said at least two elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

24. A vessel stabilizing mechanism comprising at least three elongated members and at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for securing at least one member to at least one other member such that at least one said hinge device or adjustable interface would be positioned within or above the vessel when the stabilizing mechanism is in use.

25. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 24 further comprising at least one of said at least three elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard.

26. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 24 further comprising at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device.

27. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 25 further comprising at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device.

28. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 25 further comprising at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.
29. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 26 further comprising at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.
30. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 27 further comprising at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.
31. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 25 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.
32. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 26 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.
33. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 27 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.
34. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 28 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.
35. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 29 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.
36. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 30 further comprising at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge

device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

37. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 24 further comprising at least one of said at least three elongated members having one more apertures or other support structures incorporated therein and distinct from said at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for use in securing such at least one of said at least three elongated members to the vessel and said vessel stabilizing mechanism also having one or more of the following:

- (a) at least one of said at least three elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,
- (b) at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,
- (c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or
- (d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

38. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 24 further comprising said at least one hinge device or adjustable interface comprising one or more rounded, circular, oval, square, rectangular, triangular, pentangular, hexagonal, septangular, octagonal, crescent or semicircle shaped structures affixed or affixable to or incorporated as part of one or more member(s) and having one or more aperture(s) therein such that one or more of said structure(s) of one member may be positioned next to one or more said structure(s) of one or more other member(s) and bolted, clipped or otherwise affixed together in a manner that secures or reversibly secures the relative position of the associated members and said vessel stabilizing mechanism also having one or more of the following:

- (a) at least one of said at least three elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,

(b) at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

39. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 24 further comprising said at least one hinge device or adjustable interface comprising one or more rounded, circular, oval, square, rectangular, triangular, pentangular, hexagonal, septangular, octagonal, crescent or semicircle shaped structure(s) affixed or affixable to or incorporated as part of one or more member(s) and having one or more aperture(s) therein such that one or more of said structure(s) of one member may be positioned next to one or more said structure(s) of one or more other member(s) and bolted, clipped or otherwise affixed together in a manner that secures or reversibly secures the relative position of the associated members and said vessel stabilizing mechanism also having two or more of the following:

(a) at least one of said at least three elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,

(b) at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

40. The vessel stabilizing mechanism of Claim 38 further comprising at least one of said at least three elongated members having one more apertures or other

support structures incorporated therein and distinct from said at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for use in securing such elongated member(s) to the vessel.

41. A vessel stabilizing method comprising securing to a vessel at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having at least three elongated members and at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for securing at least one member to at least one other member such that at least one said hinge device or adjustable interface would be positioned within or above the vessel when the stabilizing mechanism is in use and then operating said vessel.

42. The vessel stabilizing method of Claim 41 further comprising said at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having one or more of the following:

- (a) at least one of said at least three elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,
- (b) at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,
- (c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or
- (d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

43. The vessel stabilizing method of Claim 41 further comprising said at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having two or more of the following:

- (a) at least one of said at least three elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,
- (b) at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,
- (c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

44. A method of vessel propulsion comprising securing to a vessel one or more masts, one or more sails and at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having at least three elongated members and at least one hinge device or adjustable interface for securing at least one member to at least one other member such that at least one said hinge device or adjustable interface would be positioned within or above the vessel when the stabilizing mechanism is in use and then operating said vessel.

45. The vessel stabilizing method of Claim 44 further comprising said at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having one or more of the following:

(a) at least one of said at least three elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,

(b) at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.

46. The vessel stabilizing method of Claim 44 further comprising said at least one vessel stabilizing mechanism having two or more of the following:

(a) at least one of said at least three elongated members having one end shaped like a leeboard,

(b) at least one of said at least three elongated members having secured thereto a flotation device,

(c) at least one mast mount device having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface or

(d) at least one mounting device secured or securable to a vessel and having at least one hinge device or adjustable interface secured or securable to at least one other hinge device or adjustable interface.